

Appl. No. 10/090,601
Atty. Docket No. 8877L
Amdt. dated 12/17/2003
Reply to Office Action of 09/18/2003
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A process for producing three-dimensional articles having interstitials therein, said process comprising the steps of
providing at least two complementary mold segments, said mold segments being juxtaposable to circumscribe an enclosed cavity, said cavity having an axial direction and radial direction perpendicular thereto, each said mold segment having a plurality of members extending into said cavity, said members defining an angle relative to said axial direction;
juxtaposing said members to enclose a cavity therebetween;
disposing a flowable solidifiable material in said cavity;
allowing said material to solidify; and
separating each said mold segment from said solidified material, said separation occurring in a separation direction parallel to said protruding members of that mold segment.
2. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, further comprising a second plurality of complementary mold segments, said second plurality of complementary mold segments being axially juxtaposed with said first plurality of complementary mold segments, and placing said second plurality of mold segments together to axially lengthen said cavity, said second plurality of mold segments comprising a plurality of members protruding into said cavity;
separating each said mold segment of said second plurality of mold segments in a separation direction away from said cavity and away from said first plurality of mold segments, which separation direction is parallel to said protruding members of that mold segment.
3. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of mold segments comprises a first mold segment and a second mold segment, said first mold segment and said second mold segment each subtending 180 degrees, said members of said first mold segment and said second mold segment forming an included angle

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therebetween when said mold segments are juxtaposed to form said cavity, said included angle ranging from 60 to 120 degrees.

4. (Original) The process according to Claim 3, wherein said included angle is 90 degrees.
5. (Original) The process according to Claim 2, wherein said first plurality of mold segments comprises first and second mold segments, each said mold segment of said first plurality subtending 180 degrees, and said second plurality of mold segments comprises first and second mold segments, each said mold segment of said second plurality subtending 180 degrees, said first plurality of mold segments being rotationally offset 90 degrees from said second plurality of mold segments.
6. (Original) An article made according to the process of Claim 1.
7. (Original) An apparatus for molding three-dimensional articles having interstitials therein, said apparatus comprising:
at least two complementary mold segments, said mold segments being juxtaposable to enclose a cavity therebetween, said cavity having a longitudinal axis, said mold segments further comprising a plurality of members extending into said cavity at an angle relative to said axis; and,
a transport for separating each said mold segment away from said cavity in a separation direction, said separation direction being parallel to said members of said respective mold segment.
8. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein at least one said mold segment has members protruding from a proximal end joined to that mold segment to a distal end remote therefrom, said distal end being juxtaposed with said complementary mold segment.
9. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said distal end of said member contacts a diametrically opposite mold segment.

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10. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein each said mold segment has a wall wherein said proximal ends of said members are joined to said walls, said members extending outwardly from said wall of said mold segment, and said distal end of a mold segment contacts a wall of a diametrically opposed mold segment when said mold segments are juxtaposed to form a cavity therebetween.
11. (Canceled)
12. (New) An apparatus for molding three-dimensional articles having interstitials therein, said apparatus comprising:
at least three complementary mold segments, said mold segments being juxtaposable to enclose a cavity therebetween, said cavity having a longitudinal axis, said mold segments further comprising a plurality of members extending into said cavity at an angle relative to said axis; and,
a transport for separating each said mold segment away from said cavity in a separation direction, said separation direction being parallel to said members of said respective mold segment.
13. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 12, comprising at least four mold segments, a first pair of complementary mold segments and a second pair of complementary mold segments, said first pair and said second pair of complementary mold segments being axially juxtaposed.
14. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said mold segments subtend equal arcs about said longitudinal axis.
15. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said mold segments subtend unequal arcs about said longitudinal axis.